

IN THE MATTER OF           :       NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE LICENSES OF           :               STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
TERRENCE K. KELLER       :               ORDER OF REVOCATON  
\_\_\_\_\_               :               DOCKET NO. 453-06/97-130

At its meeting of June 19, 1997 the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Division of Criminal Justice indicating that on March 13, 1997 Terrence Keller was convicted on charges of third degree criminal sexual contact and second degree sexual assault. Currently, Respondent holds a Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility and a Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility.

At that meeting the State Board of Examiners voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to Respondent based on the aforestated information. The Order to Show Cause was mailed to Respondent by regular and certified mail on July 25, 1997, both of which were returned undelivered. After further research, certified and regular mail copies of the Order to Show Cause were forwarded to Respondent at the Allenwood Federal Correction Institution in Pennsylvania on September 3, 1997. The certified mail was received. The regular mail copy was not returned. There has been no response from or on behalf of Respondent.

It is therefore ORDERED that the charges set forth in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. By virtue of holding a teaching license, the respondent has been entrusted by the State with the care and custody of school children. Tenure Hearing of Sammons, 1972 S.L.D. 302, 321. The respondent has, however, by his conduct, violated that most sacred trust. He has repeatedly endangered minors. Such comportment is so foreign to the expectations of the deeds and actions of a professional certificated teacher - or of any person - that it raises doubts as to the continued performance of that person in the classroom.

Tenure of Blasco, OAL Dkt. EDU 3842-79 (July 15, 1980), mod. Comm'r of Ed. (August 28, 1980), mod. St. Bd. of Ed. (Feb. 4, 1981). The public must be assured that the respondent will no longer be given access to children as a teacher.

Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners finds Respondent's conviction conduct unbecoming a license holder. The appropriate penalty for his unbecoming conduct is the revocation of Respondent's teaching licenses.

It is, therefore, further ORDERED that Terrence Keller's Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility and his Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility be revoked on this 11th day of December, 1997.

It is further ORDERED that Terrence Keller return his licenses to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fourteen (14) days of receipt of this letter.

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Secretary  
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: February 23, 1998

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-28.

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